

Listing of all Claims

Claims 1-2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (previously presented): The bushing of Claim 10 wherein at least one subset of said plurality of streamlined rubber elements is integrated into at least one specified package by means not affecting compression characteristics of said streamlined rubber elements.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The bushing of Claim 3 wherein said means constitute tacking of said elements to the outer sleeve.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The bushing of Claim 3 wherein said means constitute thin membranes attached to said elements.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The bushing of Claim 3 wherein said means constitute embedding said elements into soft foam matrix.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The bushing of Claim 13 wherein said preloaded rubber elements are precompressed and frozen below their glass transition temperature before the insertion.

Claim 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (previously presented): The bushing of Claim 14, wherein said preload-application shoes comprise several segments, each segment being acted upon by at least one said compression load actuator.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A bushing comprising a rigid inner sleeve and an outer sleeve coaxial with said inner sleeve, and rubber insert between said outer sleeve and said inner sleeve, with said sleeves attached, respectively, to the first and the second mechanical components connected by said bushing while allowing a limited mobility between said first and second mechanical components at least in one direction, this mobility determined by stiffness constants of said rubber insert along translational and angular directions of mobility, said rubber insert

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comprising at least one streamlined element whose stiffness constants can be changed by preloading by compression in its radial direction.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The bushing of Claim 10 wherein said rubber insert comprises a plurality of streamlined rubber elements.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The bushing of Claim 11 comprising means for applying variable compression preload forces to said streamlined rubber elements.

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (previously presented): The bushing of Claim 12 wherein said means comprise preload-application shoes disposed between said outer sleeve and said streamlined rubber elements and contacting said streamlined rubber elements, and compression load actuators movably connected with said outer sleeve and contacting said preload application shoes.

Respectfully submitted by  Evgeny I. Rivin on July 30, 2004

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